

Capitol Planning Commission Site Features Committee Minutes
March 06, 2014
Facilities Management Center, South Conference Room
(1:00 pm – 2:18 pm)

Committee Members Present:

Carol Grant, Chair
Jesse Lewis

Allison Dorr Kleis
Dave Schmitz

Members Absent:

Mike Carroll

Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Staff Present for All or Portions of the Meeting:

Jennifer Moehlmann, DAS/GSE Emily Narayan, DAS/GSE

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Carol Grant, followed by roll call and introductions.

Site Features Application Update

At the January 8, 2014 meeting, Bill Dikis requested the Site Features Committee Members review, clarify and strengthen the Site Feature Policy regarding, statues, monuments, fountains, and other site features on the Capitol Complex to clearly articulate the applicant requirements for a site feature proposal on the Capitol Complex. The policy should identify overall minimum requirements and emphasize that the final decision rests with the Commission.

The Committee discussed several areas of concern with the current policy, such as allowable materials, the appropriateness of each piece for the Capitol grounds, determination of artistic merit, site selection, differentiation of an art site feature, and the opportunity to clarify and condense the policy in general. The Committee also discussed potential improvements to the application to clarify applicant expectations and balance the time commitment to fill out the application with the need to provide enough information to make a decision.

Jesse Lewis will work on proposing edits to the policy and application and circulate a draft to other Committee members for their input prior to the next Committee meeting.

Master Plan Update Process

Bill Dikis said the Master Plan Committee met to review 2010 Master Plan in order to make it a living document. The desire is to add accomplishments since 2010, by year, and identify changes to the Master Plan. The Master Plan Committee has asked the Site Features Committee to review and updated, as necessary, the following sections of the 2010 Master Plan:

- Landscape Framework (Page 45)
- Monuments and Public Art (Page 58)
- Site Amenities (Page 62)
- Signs and Visitor Information (Page 64)

The update needs to be completed by the end of 2014, so ideally the updates would be ready for discussion by the full Commission at the July 2014 meeting and formal adoption at the October 2014 meeting.

Jennifer Moehlmann will circulate a list of accomplishments and changes to the Committee members for their use in reviewing the Master Plan sections. Committee members were asked to review the Master Plan and volunteer to update specific sections.

Monumental Journey

The Committee briefly discussed the status of the Monumental Journey application, in light of aesthetic concerns raised at the January Capitol Planning Commission meeting and continuing concerns about the use of fiberglass. Jennifer Moehlmann reported that the artist had not yet visited Des Moines to select a site. Jesse Lewis reported his research had turned up several fiberglass art installations that had been highly vandalized. Carol Grant noted that the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation had provided information on a number of art pieces nationally that were made of fiberglass and that the “White Ghost” fiberglass piece had recently been removed from the John and Mary Pappajohn Des Moines Sculpture Park. David Schmitz will inquire about why that piece was removed and share his findings with the Committee.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting:

Meet in late April, after the next Capitol Planning Commission meeting.